# **Utility Patent Application**

## **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

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Patent Application based on:

Docket No. 01-776

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## **12-VOLT HEATED COFFEE MUG**

#### RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present invention is a continuation of U.S. Provisional Patent No. 60/226,837 filed on 08/22/00.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

#### 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to electrically heated devices combined with containers and, more particularly, to a coffee mug capable of being electrically heated.

## 2. Description of the Related Art

Coffee, tea and other hot beverages are enjoyed by people almost every

REF: 01-776

**REV: 8/20/01** 

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day. Many people cannot start their day without a cup of their favorite hot beverage. However, the start of the day also means a long commute in a car for many people. The popularity of travel mugs is evidence of the amount of coffee that is drunk while driving. For many people, a commute time of 45 minutes to an hour is not uncommon. Even in the best insulated coffee mug, hot beverages will cool to an unacceptable level during this time. Even those who do not regularly commute long distances suffer when vacationing or taking long trips on the weekend. Car rides of two hours or more are not uncommon during such trips, and hot beverages will become almost undrinkable before they can be replaced at the next rest stop.

A search of the prior art did not disclose any patents that read directly on the claims of the instant invention; however, the following references were considered related.

The following patents disclose a portable heated cup with a motion sensor and timer.

- U.S. Patent no. 6,013,901 issued in the name of *Lavoie*
- U.S. Patent no. 5,508,494 issued in the name of Sarris et al.

The following patents describe an electrically-heated warming device for a receptacle.

U.S. Patent no. 5,773,795 issued in the name of Messmer

REF: 01-776 REV: 8/20/01